

No. 48536

**New Zealand
and
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (under authorization
by the Government of the People's Republic of China)**

**New Zealand - Hong Kong, China Environment Cooperation Agreement. Wellington,
16 March 2010, and Hong Kong, 25 March 2010**

Entry into force: *1 January 2011, in accordance with article 6*

Authentic text: *English*

Registration with the Secretariat of the United Nations: *New Zealand, 20 May 2011*

**Nouvelle-Zélande
et
Région administrative spéciale de Hong Kong (par autorisation
du Gouvernement de la République populaire de Chine)**

**Accord de coopération dans le domaine de l'environnement entre la Nouvelle-Zélande et
Hong Kong, Chine. Wellington, 16 mars 2010, et Hong Kong, 25 mars 2010**

Entrée en vigueur : *1^{er} janvier 2011, conformément à l'article 6*

Texte authentique : *anglais*

Enregistrement auprès du Secrétariat des Nations Unies : *Nouvelle-Zélande, 20 mai 2011*

[ENGLISH TEXT – TEXTE ANGLAIS]

**NEW ZEALAND –
HONG KONG, CHINA
ENVIRONMENT COOPERATION
AGREEMENT**

The Ministry for the Environment of New Zealand, in the name of New Zealand, and the Environmental Protection Department of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, in the name of Hong Kong, China (hereinafter referred to collectively as the "Parties" or individually as a "Party", unless the context otherwise requires):

Desiring to strengthen the growing trade and economic relationship between New Zealand and Hong Kong, China;

Considering the *New Zealand - Hong Kong, China Closer Economic Partnership Agreement*;

Sharing a common aspiration to promote sound environmental policies and practices, and a common concern and responsibility to enhance cooperation, including to improve the capacities and capabilities of both economies, together with their other organisations, to address environmental matters, and towards the promotion of sustainable development, noting that it is essential for economic prosperity;

Acknowledging the regional and global nature of environmental issues and the need to find cost-effective and long-term solutions in addressing these issues through international cooperation and the importance of coordinating joint activities of the Parties;

Reaffirming the international commitments including those made at the Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and at the World Summit on Sustainable Development at Johannesburg in 2002 as well as those supported by the Parties in multilateral environmental agreements;

Reaffirming the commitment of the Parties to develop the content of their common agenda and to share the knowledge and experience gained in the fields related to sustainable economic development and environmental protection; and

Convinced that cooperation between the Parties in the abovementioned matters will serve their mutual interests and contribute to strengthening the relations of friendship between the Parties;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1: Objectives

The objectives of this Agreement are to:

- (a) encourage and promote sound environmental policies and practices and improve the capacities and capabilities of the Parties in addressing environmental matters;
- (b) promote, through environmental cooperation, the commitments made by the Parties in this Agreement; and
- (c) facilitate cooperation and dialogue in order to strengthen the broader relationship between the Parties.

Article 2: Key Commitments

1. The Parties respect the right of each Party to set, administer and enforce its own environmental laws, regulations, policies and practices according to its priorities.
2. The Parties agree that the primary purpose of their environmental laws, regulations, policies and practices should be to achieve environmental objectives, and it is inappropriate to either encourage trade and investment by weakening the effectiveness of their environmental laws and regulations or to set or use those laws and regulations for trade protectionist purposes.

3. The Parties recognise the desirability of clear and well understood sustainable development policies and practices and the utility of broad consultation in formulating these policies.
4. Each Party recognises the importance of promoting public awareness of its environmental laws, regulations, policies and practices.

Article 3: Cooperation

1. The Parties shall cooperate on mutually determined environmental issues through the interaction of government, industry, educational and research institutions of each Party, as appropriate. Such cooperation shall be subject to the availability of resources, the respective priorities of the Parties, and their domestic laws.
2. Each Party may, as it deems appropriate, invite other organisations to participate in the identification of potential areas for cooperation, and to undertake cooperative activities as mutually determined.
3. The Parties shall encourage and facilitate, as appropriate, the following activities:
 - (a) exchange of technical information and publications, including expanding networks of contacts for electronic information exchange;
 - (b) exchange of visits of environmental experts and management personnel;
 - (c) conduct of seminars, workshops or fora on matters of mutual interest or concern;